Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation amongst the States. However, some areas were found needing further more discussions. In order to examine and for achieving greater convergence and agreement on these issues as well, a Working Group of Irrigation/Water Resources Ministers of all the States/Union Territories under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Water Resources was constituted on 9th October, 2000. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 22nd May, 2001 wherein the draft updated National Water Policy was deliberated upon to arrive at near consensus. The Working Group was unanimous on all the provisions of the draft policy except provisions on "Setting up of river Basin Organizations" and "Water Allocation amongst States." A Core Group under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of State for Water Resources with the Irrigation/Water Resources Ministers from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu as its members was constituted to arrive at a consensus on the above two provisions of the draft updated National Water Policy. The Core Group has submitted its report which would be discussed in the next meeting of the Working Group. After finalisation of the draft policy by the Working Group, the same would be considered by the National Water Resources Council for its approval.

Content of fluorine in ground water in Karnataka districts

3196. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 299 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th July, 2001 and state whether Government are aware that due to higher content of fluorine in water there are many cases of water borne diseases in some districts of Karnataka; if so, the remedial measures taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): Fluride, beyond permissible limits has been observed in some habitations in many districts of Karnataka. The excess fluoride in drinking water causes dental and skeletal fluorosis.

Provision of safe drinking water is planned, financed and implemented by the State Governments. The Central Ground Water

Board provides technical services to the State Governments in this endeavour. Further, the Department of Drinking Water Supply in the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Urban Development extend financial and technical support to the State Governments in their efforts to supply safe drinking water, in such areas.

The Government of Karnataka has taken up water quality analysis of all sources in rural areas of Karnataka to ascertain the potability of drinking water. In order to mitigate the problem of drinking water and provide safe and potable water, water supply schemes under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission are taken up with surface sources such as rivers, canals, distributaries, minor irrigation tanks etc., for tackling the problem of excess fluoride.

Incomplete irrigation projects

3197. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of major and_ medium irrigation projects not completed as yet State-wise;

(b) the time since when these projects were taken up, initial cost of each project alongwith target date of completion;

(c) the present estimate of each of the projects with the likely time of completion; and

(d) the present Status of both financial and physical of Indra, Ong. Uppar Kolab and Upper Sukhtal irrigation projects of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The details of ongoing major and medium irrigation projects State-wise are given in the Annexure. *[See* Appendix 193, Annexure No. 19]

The completion of any project depends on various factors such as its size, acquisition of land, obtaining clearance from various Central Appraising Agencies by the State Governments, implementation of rehabilitation measures for project affected families pari-passu with